

IF THERE WERE NO "DEATH."

From the Lost Tales of Milton—By Sir Edward Lytton Bulwer.

In "Death and Sisyphus," the author suggests the misery and anarchy that would follow the abolition of death. He argues that life would become a mere struggle for existence, with no purpose or meaning.

He discusses the idea of immortality and how it would affect human society. He suggests that without death, the human race would stagnate and lose its vitality.

THE HIGH ANTIQUITY OF MAN.

From the German Journal Die Natur.

The question concerning the antiquity of the human race, which in our times occupies a prominent place in the minds of scientists, is of the highest interest. Recent discoveries and researches have assumed a new phase.

The discovery of seven fossil human skeletons, which amid the bones of mammoths, mastodons, and other antediluvian animals, were recently found in a cavern near Aurignac in the Pyrenees; the disclosure of the lacustrine habitations in Switzerland and elsewhere, whose antiquity can be traced higher than the commonly adopted Mosaic age of the world, and which already betray a certain development of civilization, has thrown a ray of light on the pre-historic age of mankind, and the scientific world has taken a deep and abiding interest in this important subject.

The highest antiquity of the human race has been established upon the basis of the bones which have been found in the alluvial deposits of the Mississippi river during immediate investigations of the period.

The remains known by the name of kitchen middens (in Danish *Kjokkenmodinger*) do not belong to so early a period. On the eastern shores of the Danish islands have been found large numbers of oyster shells, bones, and other remains, which together with remains of bones and implements of stone, wood, horn, and earthenware. The animal remains belong to species still existing, while the human crania are not different from those of the brass and iron periods, and not even from those of the actual Neolithic.

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It is to be supposed that, with the progressive higher temperature, the vegetation of the present time has developed considerably quicker than it is the case at the present moment. We conclude these observations concerning the fossil human bones, by referring to the opinion of the late Rudolph Wagner, of Göttingen, the greatest authority in comparative osteology, who considers more of the remains of fossil human bones found among the remains of animals which belong to the tertiary period, sufficient evidence to prove the great antiquity of the human race, and proposes an archaeological classification of crania, and chronological maps, in order to arrive at a more reliable basis concerning the problem of the age of the human race.

hons. We shall now speak of the recent discovery of parts of a fossil skeleton found in the valley of the Neander Valley, near Düsseldorf, on the Rhine. The particular interest which is attached to this discovery lies in the peculiar formation of the skull, which seems to throw a new light upon the difficult and much debated question concerning the true character of the first man. The most diverse opinions and judgments have been offered on this occasion. Professor C. Fuhlbrüt, the actual possessor of these precious remains, connected to the subject, and several German and English anthropologists expressed themselves as follows:—

The fact is that these human bones are of an extremely high antiquity, and the abnormal formation of the skull points to a particular race of mankind. In this cranium, the brain is of the most unusual size, and of a long elliptical form. The forehead is small and flat, while the middle and hind parts of the cranium are well developed. The skull is symmetrically formed, and there is no reason to suppose the very much depressed forehead to be of artificial origin. Its formation exhibits the same development of the forehead which has frequently been noticed in very old crania, and which is one of the most striking proofs of the influence of civilization upon the formation of the human skull.

Especially the remains of fossil bones the attention of naturalists has been directed during the past few years, to the remains belonging to the cave age, the lake, or palustrine constructions, and the so-called kitchen middens. These stone age remains, which vary in period and character, and which have been discovered in various parts of the world, have been made exclusively of stone. Boucher de Perthes discovered in the valley of the Somme, near Abbeville, in France, in diluvial strata, together with the remains of the bones of pachyderms, great numbers of stone tools, which were not only made and used, but which were polished, and recognized in them the first implements of a very ancient people. At first his conjectures were contested; the strata were declared to be of more recent date, and the stone tools were considered as mere fantastic productions of nature; but the suppositions of M. Boucher have been generally accepted. These stone hatchets were found, together with bones of elephants, 16 to 17 feet deep in gravel and sand upon the banks of the river, and the date of the tertiary formation. There were also found in St. Archaël, in France, and in a cavern in England, remains of human bones, together with similar flint hatchets. These discoveries were made in the year 1846, and have since that date, and reach back probably upwards of 2000 years. The strata which were found round them contain, besides, implements made of bones, claws, horns, wood, and clay; other implements made of stone, bone, and even of copper. The animal remains of bones belong to species still existing, while the human crania are not different from those of the brass and iron periods, and not even from those of the actual Neolithic.

Concerning the palustrine or lake constructions resting upon wooden piles, the first were discovered in 1845, at the Lake of Zurich, in Switzerland, others subsequently in different lakes, as also in Ireland, Denmark, and Mecklenburg in Germany. Those of Switzerland are of an older date than any of the others, and may be carried back as far as 500 years before Christ, of which period Herodotus relates the successful defense of such a fortified lake construction by Thracians against the army of the Persian General Menebasus. Some of those constructions which were built deeper into the lakes, are, according to the present period, of a more recent date, and reach back probably upwards of 2000 years. The strata which were found round them contain, besides, implements made of bones, claws, horns, wood, and clay; other implements made of stone, bone, and even of copper. The animal remains of bones belong to species still existing, while the human crania are not different from those of the brass and iron periods, and not even from those of the actual Neolithic.

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ITALIAN COTTON.—An exhibition of Italian cotton is to take place at Naples this month. The committee which is organizing this exhibition is also preparing a collection of specimens of the cotton plant, arranged according to the Italian provinces where they were grown.

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